

## **ACTION START-LIST FOR ISSAQUAH CHINOOK POPULATION**

Technical priorities from WRIA 8 Conservation Strategy are listed in bold. Land use, public outreach, and site specific actions are listed for each technical priority. Technical priorities are interrelated, and many actions address multiple technical priorities.

### **ISSAQUAH CREEK AND TRIBUTARIES RECOMMENDATIONS (TIER 1)**

**Identify and protect headwaters and sources of groundwater to maintain cold water temperatures and hydrological integrity. Carey and Holder Creeks are believed to be important cold water sources and should be protected.**

Within Urban Growth Area:

- Support Issaquah's proposed critical aquifer recharge area (CARA) provisions that incorporate groundwater quality protections in well head capture zones and a broader protection area where infiltration will be required for groundwater recharge. (I19)
- Protect the headwater wetlands of North Fork (Reach 2). (I281)

Outside Urban Growth Area:

- Protect headwaters and groundwater through variety of tools: wetland buffers, CARA protections, stormwater infiltration regulations (including low impact development), forest clearing restrictions, recommendations in King County's 2003 *Taylor Mountain Forest Stewardship Plan* and forest stewardship plans. (I16-17)
- Protect existing natural flow regime in the headwaters areas of Carey and Holder creeks, which are in the Tiger Mountain State Forest and Taylor Mountain County Forest vicinity, by acquiring forest property, development rights/conservation easements. Provide enhanced incentives to retain and plant forest area environments (Carey Creek Reaches 3, 4 and Holder Creek Reach 3). (I5-7)

**Protect forest cover, soil infiltrative capacity and wetlands, and minimize increases in impervious surfaces, to maintain watershed function and hydrologic integrity.**

Basinwide recommendations:

- Encourage low impact development (including low density livestock or garden enterprises) through regulations, incentives, and education/training. Support basin liaison position to set up training and information sharing among planners, developers, and scientists about hands-on aspects of low impact development best management practices, including marketing, permitting, and technical issues. (I3, I715, I719, I720, I722)
- Offer existing and new incentives to continue to protect and restore conditions beyond those which are protected through regulations. Incentives include current use taxation programs (e.g., King County's Public Benefit Rating System and Timberland Program), transferable development rights programs. (I5, I701)
- Sponsor design competitions for innovative low impact development features, including clustered development, greater forest cover, reduced impervious pavement, green roofs. Combine a home/garden tour or "Street of Dreams" type event featuring these landscape/engineering treatments. (I720, I722)
- Employ basinwide stewards and farm planners/livestock stewards to work with property owners, land trusts, and agencies in order to identify and secure forested, wetland, and riparian areas, and to encourage the best management practices for those held in private ownership. (I701, I702)
- Encourage neighborhood and community protection associations that foster the ethic of voluntary stewardship; gain community support for forest land acquisition; and build bridges between property owners, agencies, and local governments. Continue the Issaquah Action Basin Action Team and expand to include more community representation from East Fork communities and the Upper Issaquah Basin. (I711, I716, I717)

Within Urban Growth Areas:

- Consistent with the Growth Management Act, Issaquah will continue to absorb most new residential, commercial, industrial growth. Control new development to minimize impacts on water quality, instream flows, and riparian buffers by encouraging low impact development through 3-tiered approach: 1) revise existing codes; 2) provide technical information to developers; 3) promote demonstration projects through incentives, technical assistance. (I12-13)

Outside Urban Growth Areas:

- Promote comprehensive approach taken in Bear Creek basin during past decade to include: strictly enforced regulations (e.g., clearing restrictions, riparian buffers, and stewardship plans in King County's updated critical areas ordinance), King County basin steward doing targeted outreach to streamside landowners, and a range of incentives (i.e., acquisition, PBRs program, conservation easements). Forest cover protections should account for site geology, soils, topography, and vegetation to maximize retention and infiltration. (I2, I4, I727)

**Protect riparian vegetation to provide sources of large woody debris that can contribute to creation of pools.**

Basinwide:

- Protect riparian buffers through critical areas ordinances, offer incentives (Public Benefit Rating System, easements) for private property owners to protect buffers and/or revegetate and remove channel confinement. Protect and restore riparian corridors by implementing required fencing/set asides and options for planting and cost share provided by the King County Livestock Program. (I28, I30)
- Continue and expand Creekside Landowner Assistance Program including classes, technical and financial assistance in shoreline landscape design, maintenance, and streambank armoring alternatives. In addition to workshops, convey through direct mailing of brochures, videos, and expansion of "Streamside Living Welcome Wagon" where residents welcome new home owners and provide information concerning salmon-friendly yard care, etc. (I702, I704, I709)
- Offer educational opportunities to landscape designers/contractors on riparian design/installation, alternatives to invasive species, and use of compost. (I713)

Within Urban Growth Area:

- Continue to tighten regulations affecting riparian buffers, including more restricted application of buffer averaging, fewer allowable uses in buffers. However, nonconforming uses will continue to be a great challenge; in order to decrease level of nonconformity over the long term, jurisdictions should encourage/require that development come into conformity, depending on degree of redevelopment. (I25-26)

**Protect floodplain connectivity, instream channel complexity and habitat forming features to protect key life stages by limiting road crossings and bank armoring.**

Basinwide:

- Limit new development and roads in floodplains; develop and apply standards which minimize impacts to salmon. Planning for new roads, and maintenance and retrofitting of existing roads, should minimize impacts on floodplains and water quality. (I38-40, I49)
- Increase public awareness of the value of large woody debris and vegetated areas for flood protection, salmon protection and healthy streams in print (e.g., local papers, community newsletters, signage) and other means (e.g., Issaquah Salmon Days, Sammamish Watershed Festival activities, local cable channels, hatchery docent presentations). (I705)

Within Urban Growth Area:

- Consider flexibility in prescriptive buffer width standards in exchange for stream habitat and buffer enhancement during redevelopment. However, limit buffer width reductions for new development because a key issue for Issaquah Creek is encroachment into floodplain and channel confinement, and revegetation does not improve this riparian function. (I29)

- Continue Issaquah Waterways Program to protect best remaining habitat within urban growth area:
  - Continue South Issaquah Creek Greenway acquisitions in Reach 7 of Issaquah Creek including Fowler Site, Mohl Property and other properties. (I225)
  - Acquire Bush Lane Properties, 12.5 acres of floodplain lying between Issaquah Creek (Reach 2) and North Fork Issaquah Creek (Reach 1). Includes 1200 feet of east bank of Issaquah Creek and 900 feet of North Fork Issaquah Creek. (I208, I274)
  - Protect corridor along Wildwood Blvd Trail, located on west bank of Issaquah Creek in Reach 6 near hatchery intake dam. (I222)
  - Acquire "Guano Acres," one of the few remaining large undeveloped parcels (8 acres) on lower Issaquah Creek in Reach 6. (I223)
  - Acquire 5 acres for future restoration downstream of Juniper Street on Issaquah Creek in Reach 3. (I210)
  - Acquire one of the few remaining undeveloped parcels (2 acres) on lower Issaquah Creek upstream of Juniper Street in Reach 4. (I214)
  - Acquire Anderson Property, located at confluence of Issaquah Creek Reach 4 and East Fork Issaquah Creek Reach 1. (I215, I285)

Outside Urban Growth Area:

- Continue Issaquah Waterways Program to protect best remaining habitat outside Urban Growth Area:
  - Complete Issaquah Creek/Log Cabin Reach (RM 8.4-10, 155 acres) acquisition in Issaquah Reach 11 and expand to include adjacent undeveloped large parcels in Reach 12 (SE 156th Street to 252nd Avenue SE). (I244, I249)
  - Carey/Holder/Issaquah Creek Confluence Project: 120-acre site proposed for a conservation easement. Plan includes increased fenced buffers (Issaquah Reach 12, Carey Reach 1, and Holder Reach 1). (I250, I252, I259)
  - Protect best remaining habitat in Holder Creek including inholdings on Taylor and Tiger mountains (Holder Reaches 2 and 3). (I263, I261)
  - Protect best remaining habitat in Carey Creek from the confluence with Issaquah Creek to Taylor Mountain in Carey Reaches 1, 2 and 3. (I253, I254, I255)
- Issaquah Reach 9 and 10: Work with private property owners specifically in this reach to develop Public Benefit Rating System or easement to increase stream buffer protection. (I233, I238)

**Protect water quality from fine sediments, metals, high temperatures, and bed-scouring high flows:**

Basinwide recommendations:

- Identify water quality problems and address through stormwater management programs (including low impact development best management practices), current and future TMDLs, livestock management programs, upgrade of stormwater facilities (where possible), and retrofit of existing roadways to improve water quality and flows (e.g., SR-18, I-90). Jurisdictions should adopt and enforce regulations and best management practices consistent with Washington Department of Ecology's 2001 Stormwater Management Manual (or beyond), as part of the NPDES Phase 1 and Phase 2 permit requirements. (I31-32, I36, I41)
- King County should implement and enforce livestock ordinance, making highest priority those areas that are most susceptible due to fine soils. Work with farmers to adopt and implement farm plans which address water quality and fish and wildlife habitat management and restoration. Coordinate with other stewardship and education programs, e.g., Horses for Clean Water and Backcountry Horsemen. (I24, I712)
- Run Natural Yard Care Neighborhoods Program and other landscaping education opportunities in communities in the Issaquah Basin. Increase visitation of basin residents to Pickering Farm Community Teaching Garden. (I723)
- Publicize emergency call numbers for public to report water quality and quantity problems, non-permitted vegetation clearing, and non-permitted instream grading and wood removal incidents. (I729)

- Coordinate with local business community and non-profits to encourage the use of commercial car washes and carwash kits. Reprint and distribute water quality poster series depicting impacts of everyday practices: washing car, driving car without maintenance, leaving pet wastes unattended, and improperly using lawn chemicals. (I724)
- Educate and support businesses, property management companies and homeowners associations on stormwater best management practices, specifically related to parking lot cleaning, storm drain maintenance, and road cleaning. (I725)

**Provide adequate stream flow to allow upstream migration and spawning.**

Basinwide:

- Work with Washington Department of Ecology, local health departments, and water suppliers on regulations, incentives, and education related to impact of municipal water withdrawals, illegal withdrawals, exempt wells on flow conditions throughout basin. Determine where illegal surface water withdrawals are occurring and follow-up with enforcement to ensure withdrawals do not continue. Develop public information about exempt wells, differences between water drawn from wells versus water diverted from streams without water rights permits, and support enforcement through development of citizen-based watchdog groups. (I44-46)
- Adopt and enforce stormwater provisions to address high flows and protection of base flows, including forest retention and low impact development best management practices. Encourage rainwater harvesting and graywater capturing for reuse in landscaping irrigation through demonstration projects, workshops and educational materials. (I47, I723, I728)
- Continue and/or extend availability of water conservation incentive programs (such as rebates for efficient toilets, appliances, free indoor conservation kits, free landscape irrigation audits); outreach on rainwater harvesting, and graywater capturing for reuse in landscape irrigation. Support conservation efforts within the Cascade Water Alliance and work to coordinate the various water policy and decision makers. (I721, I728)

**NOTE: See also the Action Start-List for Migratory Areas.**